

1 SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

2 U.S. SENATE

3 WASHINGTON, D.C.

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7 INTERVIEW OF: IKE KAVELADZE

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11 FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018

12 WASHINGTON, D.C.

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17 The interview in this matter was held at the

18 Russell Senate Office Building, [REDACTED],

19 commencing at 1:00 p.m.

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

3           Patrick Davis, Deputy Chief Investigative  
4           Counsel, Chairman Charles E. Grassley  
5           Daniel Parker, Investigative Assistant,  
6           Chairman Grassley

7           Heather Sawyer, General Counsel,  
8           Senator Feinstein

9           Brian Privor, Senior Counsel, Senator  
10           Feinstein

11           John Lowry, Legislative Correspondent,  
12           Senator Feinstein

13

14 ON BEHALF OF THE INTERVIEWEE:

15           Scott S. Balber, Herbert Smith Freehills  
16           John O'Donnell, Herbert Smith Freehills

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3	COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY	PAGE
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1                   P R O C E E D I N G S

2                   MR. DAVIS: Good afternoon. This is the  
3 supplemental transcribed interview of Ike  
4 Kaveladze.

5                   On October 18th, 2017, Chairman Grassley  
6 sent Mr. Kaveladze a letter, stating that the  
7 Judiciary Committee was seeking information  
8 related to a meeting held on June 9th, 2016, at  
9 Trump Tower, as well as related matters. The  
10 letter requested an interview and certain  
11 categories of documents. In response, Mr.  
12 Kaveladze, through his counsel, produced documents  
13 and participated in a voluntary interview on  
14 November 3rd, 2017.

15                  On February 7th, 2018, Mr. Kaveladze's  
16 counsel submitted errata to the transcript of the  
17 November 3rd interview, and his counsel notified  
18 the committee that the errata contained  
19 substantive changes to portions of Mr. Kaveladze's  
20 testimony.

21                  Committee counsel subsequently sought this  
22 supplemental transcribed interview with Mr.  
23 Kaveladze to inquire about the new information.  
24 Mr. Kaveladze has, through his counsel, agreed to  
25 voluntarily participate in this supplemental

1 transcribed interview. The interview is being  
2 conducted via videoconference.

3           Would the witness please state your name for  
4 the record?

5           MR. KAVELADZE: Ike Thomas Kaveladze.

6           MR. DAVIS: I'm sorry, can you say that  
7 again?

8           MR. KAVELADZE: Ike Thomas Kaveladze.

9           MR. DAVIS: On behalf of the Chairman, I  
10 want to thank Mr. Kaveladze again for speaking  
11 with us. As you may recall, my name is Patrick  
12 Davis, and I am the Deputy Chief Investigative  
13 Counsel with the committee's majority staff.

14           I will ask everyone else from the committee  
15 who is here to introduce themselves as well. We  
16 will get to Mr. Kaveladze's counsel in a few  
17 moments.

18           MR. PARKER: Daniel Parker, Investigative  
19 Assistant, Chairman Grassley.

20           MR. LOWRY: John Lowry, Legislative  
21 Correspondent with Senator Feinstein.

22           MS. SAWYER: Heather Sawyer, General Counsel  
23 with Senator Feinstein.

24           MR. PRIVOR: Brian Privor, Senior Counsel  
25 with Senator Feinstein.

1           MR. DAVIS: I would like to restate a few  
2 key points we mentioned at your initial interview.

3           The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not  
4 apply to any of the committee's investigative  
5 activities, including transcribed interviews.

6 There are some guidelines we follow, and I will go  
7 over those again now.

8           Our questioning will proceed in rounds. The  
9 majority staff will ask questions for the first 30  
10 minutes. Then the minority staff will have the  
11 opportunity to ask questions for an equal amount  
12 of time. We will go back and forth until there  
13 are no more questions and the interview is over.

14           We typically take a short break at the end  
15 of each hour, but should you need to take a break  
16 at any other time, please just let us know.

17           We have an official reporter taking down  
18 everything we say to make a written record, so we  
19 ask that you give verbal responses to all  
20 questions.

21           Do you understand?

22           MR. KAVELADZE: I do.

23           MR. DAVIS: So that the court reporter can  
24 take down a clear record, we will do our best to  
25 limit the number of people directing questions to

1 you during any given half hour to those whose turn  
2 it is. It is also important that we don't talk  
3 over one another or interrupt each other, if we  
4 can help it. That goes for everybody present at  
5 today's interview.

6 While Senators on the committee may observe,  
7 the chairman and ranking member have agreed that  
8 only staff will ask questions.

9 We encourage witnesses who appear before the  
10 committee to consult freely with counsel, if they  
11 so choose. You are appearing via videoconference  
12 with counsel.

13 Counsel, could you please state your name,  
14 for the record?

15 MR. BALBER: Yes, this is Scott Balber from  
16 Herbert Smith Freehills on behalf of Mr.  
17 Kaveladze. And we do want to express our  
18 appreciation to the committee for allowing us to  
19 do this by phone to obviate the need to travel to  
20 D.C.

21 MR. O'DONNELL: And also, this is John  
22 O'Donnell of Herbert Smith Freehills, also  
23 appearing on behalf of Mr. Kaveladze.

24 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

25 Mr. Kaveladze, we want you to answer our

1 questions in the most complete and truthful manner  
2 possible, so we will take our time. If you have  
3 any questions or if you don't understand any of  
4 our questions, please let us know. If you  
5 honestly don't know the answer to a question or  
6 don't remember, it is best not to guess. Just  
7 give us your best recollection. It is also okay  
8 to tell us if you learned of information from  
9 someone else, if you indicate how you came to know  
10 the information. If there are things that you  
11 don't know or can't remember, we ask that you  
12 inform us to the best of your knowledge who might  
13 be able to provide a more complete answer to the  
14 question.

15 It is this committee's practice to honor  
16 valid common-law privilege claims as an  
17 accommodation to a witness or party when those  
18 claims are made in good faith and accompanied by  
19 sufficient explanation, so that the committee can  
20 evaluate the claim. When deciding whether to  
21 honor a privilege, the committee weighs its need  
22 for the information against any legitimate basis  
23 for withholding it. The committee typically does  
24 not honor contractual confidentiality agreements.  
25 You should understand that although the

1 interview is not under oath, by law, you are  
2 required to answer questions from Congress  
3 truthfully.

4 Do you understand that?

5 MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I do.

6 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

7 Witnesses who knowingly provide false  
8 statements could be subject to criminal  
9 prosecution and imprisonment for up to 5 years.

10 Do you understand this?

11 MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I do.

12 MR. DAVIS: Is there any reason you are  
13 unable to provide truthful answers to today's  
14 questions?

15 MR. KAVELADZE: No, there is not.

16 MR. DAVIS: Finally, we ask that you not  
17 speak about what we discuss in this interview with  
18 anyone else outside of who is participating in the  
19 videoconference today, in order to preserve the  
20 integrity of our investigation.

21 Is there anything else that my colleagues  
22 from the minority want to add?

23 MS. SAWYER: Only one thing.

24 Mr. Balber, I don't know if it is possible  
25 for you --

1 MR. BALBER: Yes?

2 MS. SAWYER: Yes, sorry. I don't know if it  
3 is possible for you to put your device on mute,  
4 because there is a lot of background noise. It is  
5 a little hard to hear your client.

6 MR. BALBER: Yeah, if I can figure it out, I  
7 am happy to.

8 MS. SAWYER: Great. And, obviously, we  
9 certainly don't want to interfere with your  
10 ability to communicate with your client, if you  
11 need to. But we will be watching you on video as  
12 well, so if you want to flag for us if there is  
13 something you want to interject, we will make sure  
14 we catch it. Thank you.

15 MR. DAVIS: The time is now 1:12, and we  
16 will get started with the first 30 minutes of  
17 questions.

18 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY  
19 BY MR. DAVIS:

20 Q. Mr. Kaveladze, according to page 16 of  
21 the transcript of your November interview with us,  
22 you were asked, "Are you aware of any instances in  
23 which Aras Agalarov sought to arrange meetings  
24 between Mr. Trump or his associates and Russian  
25 Government officials?"

1                   At the time, you responded, "No, I am not  
2 aware."

3                   When your attorney submitted the errata  
4 sheet for that transcript, this answer was changed  
5 to yes, with the explanation, "Mr. Kaveladze has  
6 recalled a conversation since testifying."

7                   What was that conversation?

8                   A. I had a -- I mean, the conversation I was  
9 referring to was not really a conversation. It  
10 was witnessed -- I had witnessed a part of a  
11 telephone conversation with -- between Mr.  
12 Agalarov and a Russian Government official where  
13 Mr. Agalarov requested that -- he informed the  
14 government official about the contest, the Miss  
15 Universe contest, and then secretly\* requested the  
16 meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin.

\* Note:  
see errata

17                   I only, unfortunately, witnessed a part  
18 of the conversation, because I was at the office  
19 of Mr. Agalarov at that time, and he received a  
20 call on his cell phone, and he started conversing  
21 with -- obviously, it was not a speakerphone. It  
22 was a regular phone call. And he started this  
23 conversation, and he gave this first introductory  
24 information and request, and, you know,  
25 communicated a request for a meeting. And then he

1 kind of left to the adjacent room for the privacy.

2 He would do it pretty frequently. When  
3 he wants to have a private conversation, he would  
4 leave the room. And so I heard a part of it.

5 But, yes, it was a conversation about the  
6 request --

7 Q. And do you -- go ahead.

8 A. -- a request between Mr. Putin and Mr.  
9 Trump.

10 Q. And do you recall when this phone call  
11 occurred?

12 A. I cannot tell for sure, but I think it  
13 was maybe around 40 days prior to the contest,  
14 plus/minus 10 days, I would say. Unfortunately, I  
15 don't have an exact recollection of the date.

16 Q. Okay. And as you understood it, he was  
17 requesting a meeting specifically between Mr.  
18 Putin and Mr. Trump? Is that correct?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. Do you know which official in the Russian  
21 Government Mr. Agalarov was speaking with?

22 A. My assumption was that it was Dmitry  
23 Peskov.

24 Q. What was the basis for that assumption?

25 A. During the prior organizational meetings,

1 Mr. Goldstone, Rob Goldstone, had requested that  
2 call from Mr. Agalarov suggesting -- he was the  
3 first one who actually related that topic to us.  
4 He said -- you know, he came to Moscow. He said  
5 he had meeting with Trump people, and he said they  
6 requested that meeting. And so he related that  
7 information to us.

8 So -- and he said, can we have a meeting  
9 or phone conversation or relate the request to Mr.  
10 Peskov? So I assumed Mr. Agalarov was speaking to  
11 Mr. Peskov, Dmitry Peskov. That is the press  
12 attaché of President of the Russian Federation,  
13 press representative, I believe.

14 Q. Okay, I am not quite sure I followed your  
15 last answer in full, so I am going to ask a few  
16 follow-up questions.

17 When you say he requested the meeting  
18 with Putin, was that Mr. Trump was requesting it  
19 through Mr. Goldstone, or was that Mr. Goldstone  
20 was making the request?

21 A. No, it was Mr. Trump requesting through  
22 Mr. Goldstone.

23 Q. And did you know that the request  
24 originated with Mr. Trump because of things Mr.  
25 Goldstone had told you? Or how did you know where

1 the request originated?

2 A. Yes, in meetings, he related that to us.

3 We had group organizational meetings dedicated to  
4 Miss Universe pageant, and during one of the  
5 meetings, he said that he has that message.

6 Q. Now, you said that this call you observed  
7 occurred at Mr. Agalarov's office. Is that  
8 correct?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. Were you aware of any follow-up to the  
11 call?

12 A. No, I was not. I read some media  
13 reports, but I was not part of or was aware of  
14 anything else, so.

15 Q. Do you know if such a meeting between Mr.  
16 Putin and Mr. Trump did occur?

17 A. Again, from media reports, I know it did  
18 not occur.

19 Q. But do you have any firsthand knowledge  
20 of that?

21 A. No, I do not.

22 Q. Okay.

23 MR. BALBER: And, Mr. Kaveladze, let's keep  
24 your observation of media reports out of the  
25 equation.

1 MR. KAVELADZE: Sure. Okay.

2 MR. BALBER: I think counsel wants only what  
3 you have personal knowledge of.

4 MR. KAVELADZE: Okay, I -- understood.

5 BY MR. DAVIS:

6 Q. Did Mr. Agalarov ever explain to you why  
7 he was passing along this request, what his  
8 personal motivations were?

9 A. No, I don't believe we ever had any  
10 discussions with Mr. Agalarov about that request,  
11 further discussions, let me put it this way.

12 Q. In the prior meetings in which Mr.  
13 Goldstone had mentioned this, did he explain what  
14 the purpose of such a meeting would be?

15 A. No, he did not.

16 Q. What prompted you to recall this meeting  
17 after our interview?

18 A. I had numerous -- actually, two meetings  
19 after the -- after your initial interview, I had  
20 meetings with other interested committees and  
21 other organizations, and I was asked this question  
22 again, more precisely, though. They asked the  
23 question not about the Russian Government but of  
24 President Putin. And when they asked this  
25 question, I had that recollection.

1                   So at that point, I thought I need to  
2 make a correction in my Judiciary Committee  
3 interview transcript.

4                   Q. Aside from your memory, did you have any  
5 documents or other records reflecting your  
6 awareness of this call?

7                   A. Of -- of -- of that particular call, no,  
8 there's no documents about that call.

9                   Q. Okay.

10                  A. No.

11                  Q. The errata your attorney submitted also  
12 made changes to clarify that, after your trip to  
13 New York for the June 9th, 2016, Trump Tower  
14 meeting, you did not depart New York to return  
15 home to California as you had told us previously,  
16 but, instead, traveled from New York to Moscow.

17 The reason provided was that, "Per request, Mr.  
18 Kaveladze reviewed travel records."

19                  And the errata sheet also states, "Note  
20 that Mr. Kaveladze traveled from Russia from June  
21 10th, 2016, through approximately July 14th,  
22 2016."

23                  Is it correct that you departed New York  
24 City for Russia on June 10th, 2016, the day after  
25 the Trump Tower meeting?

1           A. To be more specific, I departed -- on  
2 June 10, I have left New York City for Frankfurt,  
3 Germany, and I believe I arrive to Moscow on June  
4 11.

5           Q. And is it correct that you stayed in  
6 Russia for more than a month, from June 10th  
7 through July 14th? Is that correct?

8           A. That is correct.

9           Q. What was the purpose of this trip?

10          A. It was personal and business. Well, let  
11 me put it, business and personal. And at that  
12 time, I worked, you know, for Crocus International  
13 as a senior vice president, so I spent half of my  
14 time in Moscow. So it was pretty typical.

15          Q. Was it typical for your trips to be so  
16 long? This one was over a month long. Or did you  
17 usually take shorter trips?

18          A. For summertime, it was pretty typical.

19 Yeah, it was pretty typical.

20          Q. Did you discuss the Trump Tower meeting  
21 with anyone in Russia?

22          A. I had a very quick conversation with Mr.  
23 Agalarov. I didn't have much to add to the phone  
24 conversations I had, which -- the only thing I  
25 added is that I reiterated the statement that it

1 would have been better if the meeting was held  
2 between Mrs. Veselnitskaya and attorneys, and not  
3 with the individuals who have met.

4 Q. Did you have any interactions with any  
5 Russian Government officials during the trip?

6 A. No, I did not.

7 Q. Did you have any interactions with anyone  
8 you knew to be affiliated with the Internet  
9 Research Agency during that trip?

10 A. No, I did not.

11 Q. Have you ever had communications with  
12 anyone you knew to be affiliated with the Internet  
13 Research Agency?

14 A. No, I have not.

15 Q. Do you know Yevgeny Prigozhin?

16 A. No, I do not. No.

17 Q. Do you know if Aras Agalarov knows him?

18 A. I have no knowledge of that.

19 Q. Do you know Mikhail Bystrov, B-Y-S-T-R-O-  
20 V?

21 A. No, I do not. No.

22 Q. Mikhail Burchik, B-U-R-C-H-I-K?

23 A. No, I do not.

24 Q. Mikhail Abramov, A-B-R-A-M-O-V?

25 A. No, I do not.

1           Q. Aleksandra Krylova, K-R-Y-L-O-V-A?

2           A. No, I do not.

3           Q. Do you know Anna Bogacheva, B-O-G-A-C-H-

4    E-V-A?

5           A. No, I do not.

6           Q. Sergei Polozov, P-O-L-O-Z-O-V?

7           A. No, I do not.

8           Q. Maria Bovda, B-O-V-D-A?

9           A. No, I do not.

10          Q. Just a few more here. Maria Belyaeva?

11         That is B-E-L-Y-A-E-V-A.

12          A. No, I do not.

13          Q. What about Robert Bovda, B-O-V-D-A?

14          A. Could you spell the last name again,

15    please?

16          Q. B-O-V-D-A.

17          A. No, I do not.

18          Q. Okay, what about Dzheykhun Aslanov? And

19    I will spell that. D-Z-H-E-Y-K-H-U-N for the

20   first name. The last name, A-S-L-A-N-O-V.

21          A. No, I do not.

22          Q. What about Jay Aslanov?

23          A. No, I do not.

24          Q. Vadim Podkopaev, P-O-D-K-O-P-A-E-V?

25          A. Podkopaev?

1           Q. Right, I think that is the correct  
2 pronunciation.

3           A. No, I do not.

4           Q. And do you know Vladimir Venkov, V-E-N-K-  
5 O-V?

6           A. No, I do not.

7           Q. Do you know if Mr. Agalarov knows any of  
8 those people I just asked you about?

9           A. I do not know.

10          Q. Okay. So returning to your activities  
11 during your summer 2016 trip to Moscow, what kind  
12 --

13          MR. O'DONNELL: Patrick, this is John  
14 O'Donnell. Can I just ask a quick question?

15          MR. DAVIS: Sure.

16          MR. O'DONNELL: The first person that you  
17 asked about, Prigozhny?

18          MR. DAVIS: That's right, Prigozhin.

19          MR. O'DONNELL: What was that? Can you  
20 spell that for me?

21          MR. DAVIS: I can. P-R-I-G-O-Z-H-I-N.

22          MR. O'CONNELL: G-O-Z-H?

23          MR. DAVIS: I-N.

24          MR. O'CONNELL: Okay, and what was the next  
25 one?

1           MR. DAVIS: It was Mikhail Bystrov, B-Y-S-T-  
2 R-O-V.

3           MR. O'CONNELL: Okay, great. Thank you.

4 BY MR. DAVIS:

5           Q. So, Mr. Kaveladze, returning to your  
6 Moscow trip during the summer of 2016, what type  
7 of business did you engage in during that trip?

8           A. Well, there was numerous projects I was  
9 involved in at that time. Most of them were  
10 related to a refinancing of company -- corporate  
11 debt. We also were trying to secure new financing  
12 for the airplane. And I think that -- that's  
13 mostly what I was busy with.

14           Q. In terms of refinancing the corporate  
15 debt, do you recall if you worked with any or  
16 interacted with any banks as part of that project?

17           A. Yes, I did.

18           Q. Do you recall which ones?

19           MR. BALBER: I'm sorry. This is Scott  
20 Balber. I mean, obviously, you are entitled to  
21 some leeway on these issues, but we are back here  
22 to answer the two questions that were implicated  
23 by the errata sheet. I'm not sure what the  
24 identity of banks that Crocus Group was  
25 potentially refinancing with have that is relevant

1 to this inquiry.

2 MR. DAVIS: Well, if they were the same  
3 banks that members of the Trump campaign otherwise  
4 had contact with, we would probably want to know.

5 BY MR. DAVIS:

6 Q. So I guess I can just ask, was Sberbank  
7 one of the banks involved?

8 A. Well, yes, because Sberbank is a main  
9 creditor of Crocus. And so we are in constant,  
10 constant fight with them to get a better -- better  
11 conditions of financing, basically, reduce their  
12 interest rate and increase the balloon payment at  
13 the end of the loan, which, that way, it would  
14 reduce the amount of monthly payments.

15 This is what we are fighting for mostly.

16 And Sberbank was one of the banks, obviously,  
17 because they credit -- I mean, they work with us.

18 And the other bank was Otkritie, Bank Otkritie  
19 Bank.

20 Q. Thank you. Did you have any contact with  
21 Ms. Veselnitskaya while you were in Russia on that  
22 trip?

23 A. No. No. I did report about my contacts  
24 with Ms. Veselnitskaya. But not during that trip,  
25 no.

1           Q. You reported that to whom?

2           A. To you, to your committee.

3           Q. And what about with Mr. Akhmetshin? Did  
4 you have any contact with him during that trip to  
5 Russia?

6           A. No. My only contact -- no, I didn't have  
7 any contacts during that trip. Again, that's  
8 reported, my contact with him, but not during that  
9 trip.

10          Q. Other than your conversation with Mr.

11 Agalarov about the Trump Tower meeting, did you  
12 undertake any actions connected in any way to the  
13 Trump Tower meeting while you were in Russia, any  
14 follow-up activities or conversations?

15          A. No, I did not. We all qualified that  
16 meeting as a complete loss of time, so it would be  
17 -- no.

18          Q. Did the Crocus Group pay for your travel  
19 while you were in Russia for that trip?

20          A. Pay for my travel when I was in Russia?

21 Did they pay for my travel expenses? Yes.

22          Q. Yes.

23          A. I collect salary from them, so.

24          Q. So were you reimbursed for the particular  
25 travel, or did you just pay it out of your salary?

1           A. For which particular travel? Yeah, I was  
2 reimbursed. Yeah.

3           Q. The travel from the summer of 2016.

4           A. Yeah, I was reimbursed.

5           Q. Okay, I think this is --

6           A. The Crocus Group --

7           Q. Go ahead.

8           A. There is a certain limit. You know, they  
9 didn't reimburse all of my travel tickets, but,  
10 like, I believe six times a year, I could travel  
11 at the expense of Crocus, and that was one of  
12 those travels.

13           Q. So as I recall the news, the first leaks  
14 of information obtained from the hack of the  
15 Democratic National Committee happened in mid-June  
16 of 2016. Do you recall seeing news reports about  
17 that while you were in Russia?

18           A. I don't recall if I was in Russia, but I  
19 certainly did -- did see the news. Yeah, I saw  
20 the news.

21           Q. And what was your personal reaction at  
22 the time?

23           A. Surprise, outrage.

24           MR. DAVIS: I think we are at a good  
25 stopping point for me right now, so we will go off

1 the record for a moment, and then begin with the  
2 minority. We will go off the record at 1:31 p.m.

3 [Break.]

4 MR. PRIVOR: We are back on the record. It  
5 is now 1:32.

6 Go ahead, Mr. Kaveladze.

7 MR. KAVELADZE: During my time in Moscow,  
8 like months or something, more than months, I  
9 spent approximately 8 days in Georgia. I took a  
10 vacation, and we did a family trip to Georgia. My  
11 roots, my ethnic roots, are from Georgia, and we  
12 have relatives who live there, so we went to visit  
13 relatives. I don't know if it is important or  
14 not, but just.

15 MR. PRIVOR: Okay, very good. Thank you for  
16 that clarification.

17 As you will recall from last time when we  
18 took testimony, because we go in rounds, we will  
19 sometimes overlap with one another. I will do my  
20 best not to repeat questions that Mr. Davis has  
21 already asked, but I will be touching on the same  
22 topics, so please indulge us as we ask some  
23 questions that might sound a little bit  
24 repetitive, but we are trying to get some more  
25 clarification.

1           So we started with -- the first question was  
2 about this telephone call between Mr. Agalarov and  
3 Mr. Peskov, and I wanted to ask you a few more  
4 questions about that.

5           EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY  
6 BY MR. PRIVOR:

7           Q. You stated that this originated with a  
8 request from Mr. Goldstone to Mr. Agalarov,  
9 conveying Donald Trump's request for a meeting  
10 with Putin. Was that Donald Trump Sr. that had  
11 made the request?

12          A. Yes, sir.

13          Q. And when did the request for Mr.  
14 Goldstone come in? What were the circumstances of  
15 that? Was that an in-person meeting, or was that  
16 a telephone request?

17          A. I think it was an in-person meeting. He  
18 was in Moscow.

19          Q. Do you recall when that was?

20          A. My guess is sometime in September. I --

21          Q. Roughly, how long before you heard the --  
22 overheard at least one side of the telephone  
23 conversation between Mr. Agalarov and Mr. Peskov,  
24 approximately how long before that was the meeting  
25 with Mr. Goldstone?

1           A. Roughly, I would say from a week to 10  
2 days.

3           Q. Do you recall how long Mr. Goldstone was  
4 in Moscow?

5           A. I do not. No, I do not. He usually  
6 would come for a few days, though, like between  
7 three and seven. But I don't recall that specific  
8 visit, no.

9           Q. Do you recall the particular purpose of  
10 that visit by Mr. Goldstone? Did it have a  
11 particular purpose?

12          A. Usually, there were two purposes for  
13 these visits, I mean, at that time. One was Mr.  
14 Emin Agalarov's musical career, so he would come,  
15 and they do work with Emin and try to, you know,  
16 plan their future concert activity and whatever.  
17 I mean, unfortunately, I never -- I would miss  
18 their meetings. And the other one at that period  
19 of time was preparation for Miss Universe, so.

20          Q. With regard to his role in connection  
21 with the Miss Universe pageant, who was Mr.  
22 Goldstone representing at that time when he came  
23 to meet in Moscow?

24          A. It is hard for me to say. I know he was  
25 communicating the message he received in U.S., but

1 who exactly was he representing? Unfortunately, I  
2 do not know, no.

3 Q. Were you present for that meeting?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you recall who else was present for  
6 that meeting?

7 A. I remember Emin Agalarov, and I remember  
8 numerous people who work for Emin and who were  
9 involved in organizational aspects of the pageant.

10 Q. And was there anyone else?

11 A. No.

12 Q. How about -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.

13 A. No Agalarov Sr.

14 Q. Agalarov --

15 A. Agalarov Sr. was not present at that  
16 meeting.

17 Q. Was there anyone else with Mr. Goldstone,  
18 working with Mr. Goldstone?

19 A. No, I don't believe so.

20 Q. Was there anyone from the Trump  
21 Organization at that meeting?

22 A. No, definitely not.

23 Q. Was there anyone else at all other than  
24 you, Mr. Goldstone, Emin, and Emin's colleagues or  
25 employees?

1           A. No. No one, no. Russian employees of  
2 Crocus International involved in organizational  
3 aspects of Miss Universe.

4           Q. Did anyone participate in that meeting by  
5 telephone?

6           A. No.

7           Q. With regard to this particular meeting  
8 and Mr. Goldstone conveying Donald Trump's request  
9 for a meeting, can you tell us, as best as you can  
10 recall, precisely what Mr. Goldstone said or asked  
11 with regard to setting up a meeting?

12          A. He said he requested the meeting. I  
13 don't remember what precisely he said, but I  
14 definitely remember that request. But I don't  
15 remember the details, unfortunately.

16          Q. And when you say, "he requested," do you  
17 mean Donald Trump requested a meeting?

18          A. Through Mr. Goldstone, yes. Donald Trump  
19 through Mr. Goldstone requested that meeting,  
20 Donald Trump Sr.

21          Q. Apart from that meeting, were there any  
22 other conversations in between that meeting and  
23 the telephone call with Mr. Peskov that you have  
24 described in which there was any discussion about  
25 arranging a meeting between Donald Trump and

1 Vladimir Putin?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Before that meeting took place, do you  
4 recall whether there were any other conversations  
5 in which someone from the Trump side was  
6 requesting a meeting with Vladimir Putin?

7 A. The only source about that meeting I had  
8 was Rob Goldstone. I didn't see any requests from  
9 anybody else.

10 Q. And the only source being Mr. Goldstone,  
11 is that exclusively the meeting you have just  
12 described? Or were there any other communications  
13 about it?

14 A. We -- again, we might have had some quick  
15 talk with him about, with Goldstone, but it is  
16 Goldstone. I didn't have any -- I mean, that's  
17 not -- it wasn't my topic, you know. I wasn't  
18 really involved in those, you know, aspects of  
19 meetings and stuff like that, so, no.

20 Q. Did you ever communicate with anybody  
21 from the Trump Organization about setting up a  
22 meeting?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you know whether Mr. Agalarov  
25 communicated with anyone from the Trump

1 Organization about setting up a meeting?

2 A. I have no knowledge of this.

3 Q. So is your knowledge, then, limited to  
4 the meeting with Mr. Goldstone in which he  
5 reconveyed the request, as well as the telephone  
6 call for which you overheard just one half of the  
7 conversation?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. Okay, so just those two points in time,  
10 those are the only two in which this meeting came  
11 up that you are aware of -- or, I'm sorry,  
12 requests for a meeting came up that you are aware  
13 of?

14 A. I also believe there was an email from  
15 Mr. Goldstone to Mr. Emin Agalarov with the same  
16 topic where I was copied.

17 Q. Do you recall approximately when that  
18 email came?

19 A. Sometime in September.

20 Q. Was it before the meeting with Mr.  
21 Goldstone or after?

22 A. I don't remember. I think it is like  
23 simultaneously. I don't remember that.

24 Q. Do you recall if anyone else was copied  
25 or received that email as well as you?

1           A. I only know that it was addressed to Emin  
2 Agalarov. I didn't see who else was copied. I  
3 was copied.

4           Q. Was the sender Rob Goldstone?

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. Okay, so as best you can recall, it was  
7 an email from Rob Goldstone to Emin copied to you?

8           A. That is correct, yes. That is correct.

9           Q. Did you do anything with that email when  
10 you received it? For instance --

11          A. No.

12          Q. -- did you forward it to anyone?

13          A. No, I did not.

14          Q. Did you have any further discussions with  
15 anybody about that email?

16          A. No, sir.

17          Q. And did you have any other discussions  
18 about either the email or the meeting request from  
19 Rob Goldstone concerning setting up a meeting  
20 between Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin?

21          A. No, I have not.

22          Q. All right, so I just want to summarize  
23 and make sure I've kind of captured your  
24 recollection.

25          The best you can recall is there was an

1 email request from Rob Goldstone. There was an  
2 in-person meeting request from Rob Goldstone to  
3 arrange this meeting. And then there was a  
4 telephone call between Aras Agalarov and Mr.  
5 Peskov. And those are the --

6 A. Yes, I would like --

7 Q. Is that everything you remember?

8 A. I would like to specify. I assumed it  
9 was Mr. Peskov.

10 Q. I'm sorry, could you say that again?

11 A. I assumed that the person on the other  
12 side of the phone conversation was Mr. Peskov.

13 Q. I see. Thank you.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. With regard to that email that Rob  
16 Goldstone sent, do you recall what it said? Can  
17 you recall any of the language that was used?

18 A. It was request for a meeting. I don't  
19 remember it, I mean.

20 Q. Do you still have that email?

21 A. I believe I do.

22 Q. And is that something that you can  
23 produce to the committee, if you have it still  
24 available?

25 MR. BALBER: Mr. Kaveladze, I would really

1 caution you to be very certain when you say that  
2 you -- that this email exists and that you have  
3 it. If you are, so be it.

4 But I will tell the committee, we've  
5 released everything that we are aware of in Mr.  
6 Kaveladze's custody or control that is responsive  
7 to the request, but if there is another email that  
8 Mr. Kaveladze has, then, obviously, we will  
9 provide it.

10 MR. PRIVOR: Okay, very good. We understand  
11 the caveat. Thank you.

12 BY MR. PRIVOR:

13 Q. With regard to the telephone call between  
14 Mr. Agalarov and the person that you have assumed  
15 was Mr. Peskov, why did you think that it was Mr.  
16 Peskov?

17 A. Because all requests from Rob Goldstone  
18 were to talk to Mr. Peskov about, so --

19 Q. So going back to the email, do you recall  
20 whether the email from Mr. Goldstone to Emin  
21 specified that he wanted to speak to or convey a  
22 message to Mr. Peskov?

23 A. I believe so, yes.

24 Q. And likewise, with regard to the in-  
25 person meeting with Mr. Goldstone, did he specify

1 wanting to convey the message to Mr. Peskov?

2           A. I think Goldstone, during the meeting, I  
3 remember him saying that he wanted to meet -- even  
4 meet with Mr. Peskov and discuss that potential  
5 meeting.

6           Q. Do you know whether Mr. Goldstone had  
7 ever met Mr. Peskov before then?

8           A. I do not know that.

9           Q. Do you know whether he had ever  
10 communicated with Mr. Peskov before then? For  
11 example, via email or telephone?

12           A. No, I do not know that.

13           Q. Do you know if he had any relationship at  
14 all with Mr. Peskov before then?

15           A. I have no -- I do not know that.

16           Q. How about with regard to Aras Agalarov?

17 Do you know what, if any, relationship he had with  
18 Mr. Peskov before the request was made?

19           A. At that time, I know they knew each  
20 other, but I don't -- I can't say what kind of  
21 relationship they had.

22           Q. Do you know how they knew each other?

23           A. No, I do not know.

24           Q. With respect to the telephone call, was  
25 that a call received by Mr. Agalarov, or did Mr.

1 Agalarov place the call to Mr. Peskov?

2 A. I believe it was received by Mr.

3 Agalarov.

4 Q. Do you know what prompted Mr. Peskov's  
5 call to Aras? In other words, was there some  
6 other call that you are aware of that was outgoing  
7 to Mr. Peskov first?

8 A. There probably was a call, but, no, I am  
9 unaware of that.

10 Q. Do you know if there was any email  
11 communication with Mr. Peskov that asked for a  
12 call or would have prompted a return call?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you know whether there was any in-  
15 person meeting that would have asked for or  
16 prompted a return call from Mr. Peskov?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Before that call took place, had you ever  
19 had a conversation with Mr. Agalarov about  
20 arranging a meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr.  
21 Putin?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And after that call took place, did you  
24 have any further conversation with Mr. Agalarov  
25 about that topic?

1           A. No, I don't believe so. Like I said, it  
2 was not my topic, you know, I was --

3           Q. With regard to the original request from  
4 Mr. Goldstone, do you recall whether he specified  
5 any particular reason that Mr. Trump wanted a  
6 meeting with Mr. Putin?

7           A. I don't believe he specified any reason.

8           Q. Did you ever ask if there was a reason?

9           A. No, it was not my topic.

10          Q. Were you ever present when the topic of a  
11 meeting between Trump and Putin was discussed?

12 Even if you didn't participate in the  
13 conversation, did you observe any conversations,  
14 other than --

15          A. Nothing -- nothing outside of that  
16 organizational meetings, Emin Agalarov -- and in  
17 conversation at Mr. Agalarov's office I told you  
18 about.

19          Q. With respect to the telephone  
20 conversation, which we understand you only heard  
21 one side of it, were you able to infer from what  
22 you could hear what President Putin's reaction was  
23 to the request for a meeting?

24          A. No.

25          Q. Were you able to tell at all if he wanted

1 to have a meeting or not, or whether he was  
2 rejecting the request for a meeting?

3 A. No idea, no.

4 Q. Do you know how often Mr. Agalarov  
5 communicates, if at all, with Donald Trump?

6 A. Are you talking about current status or

7 --

8 Q. I'm sorry. I should have given you a  
9 time period.

10 Putting yourself back in time, at the  
11 time of that telephone call, do you know whether  
12 Mr. Agalarov and Mr. Trump had communicated  
13 directly before then?

14 A. Before that was the meeting in Vegas when  
15 we signed the documents for Miss Universe, so I am  
16 sure they communicated. Agalarov -- Agalarovs  
17 were present, and Mr. Trump was there as well.

18 Q. Do you know how -- after that meeting in  
19 Vegas to sign the paperwork for the Miss Universe  
20 pageant, and until the telephone call between Mr.  
21 Agalarov and Mr. Peskov, or who you assume was Mr.  
22 Peskov, do you know how often Mr. Agalarov  
23 communicated with Mr. Trump in that time period?

24 A. I have no knowledge of this.

25 Q. Were you ever present for a communication

1 between Mr. Agalarov and Mr. Trump?

2 A. Never.

3 Q. Were you ever present for any  
4 communications between Mr. Agalarov and a  
5 representative of Mr. Trump? For example, someone  
6 from the Trump Organization?

7 A. No.

8 MR. BALBER: Again, just for clarity,  
9 obviously, Mr. Kaveladze has already testified  
10 previously about the events of the Miss Universe  
11 pageant in Moscow, the events of the Miss USA  
12 pageant in Moscow. So I assume, Mr. Privor, you  
13 are talking about communications in the interim?  
14 Is that fair?

15 MR. PRIVOR: Yes, sir. Yes. Thank you.

16 MR. KAVELADZE: No. The answer is no.

17 BY MR. PRIVOR:

18 Q. So with respect to, again, Mr. Goldstone  
19 making this request on behalf of or conveying a  
20 request to Mr. Trump, you communicated that one,  
21 or it was eventually communicated by Mr. Agalarov  
22 to Mr. Peskov, or whom you believe to be Peskov.  
23 Were there other requests that you can recall in  
24 which Mr. Goldstone had conveyed a request or any  
25 information to Mr. Peskov on behalf --

1           A. No, sir. No --

2           Q. -- on behalf of Mr. Trump?

3           A. No, that was the only occasion.

4           Q. So that's the only one where you can  
5 recall that a request was made from Goldstone to  
6 Peskov?

7           A. Correct.

8           Q. And I apologize, because I think you may  
9 have answered this. I just don't recall your  
10 response. Do you know Mr. Peskov at all?

11          A. I do not know Mr. Peskov.

12          Q. And you've never met him or communicated  
13 with him directly?

14          A. No.

15          Q. Did you ever discuss with Mr. Agalarov  
16 what his relationship is with Mr. Peskov?

17          A. No, I did not.

18          Q. Do you know of any instances in which Mr.  
19 Agalarov and Mr. Peskov have discussed Mr. Trump,  
20 other than the one telephone call that you have  
21 described? And again --

22          A. No, I do not.

23          Q. Again, I recognize you weren't certain it  
24 was Mr. Peskov. But setting that aside, do you  
25 recall any other instances in which Agalarov and

1 Peskov had discussed Trump?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Do you know what Mr. Agalarov's  
4 relationship is with President Putin?

5 A. I don't know if there is any  
6 relationship, but I know that Mr. Agalarov was a  
7 contractor on numerous government projects, so  
8 that's all.

9 Q. Do you know if Mr. Agalarov communicates  
10 directly with Mr. Putin? Or does it always go  
11 through Mr. Peskov?

12 A. I'm not sure as to what Mr. Peskov  
13 anybody else -- I don't know about the --

14 MR. BALBER: And maybe a foundational  
15 question would be appropriate, which is whether  
16 Mr. Kaveladze is aware of any communications with  
17 Mr. Putin directly or indirectly, period.

18 MR. PRIVOR: Fair enough. We will pose that  
19 as a question. Thank you, Scott.

20 MR. KAVELADZE: Between Mr. Putin and Mr.  
21 Agalarov?

22 MR. PRIVOR: Yes, sir.

23 MR. KAVELADZE: I know there was some  
24 official meetings, like dedicated to either World  
25 Cup starting construction or Russian Island

1 construction project, where Mr. Agalarov was  
2 invited to attend, along with many other people.  
3 But I am not aware of any face-to-face meetings.

4 BY MR. PRIVOR:

5 Q. Whether face-to-face or not, are you  
6 aware of any communications directly between Mr.  
7 Agalarov and President Putin in which they  
8 discussed Donald Trump?

9 A. I'm unaware of this.

10 Q. I'm sorry, you are unaware?

11 A. I am unaware of this.

12 Q. And same question, slightly different,  
13 are you aware of any communications between Mr.  
14 Agalarov and President Putin in which they  
15 discussed the presidential election in the United  
16 States?

17 A. No, I'm unaware of this.

18 Q. With respect to the call that you had  
19 heard one half of it, or one side of it, did you  
20 discuss that, what you had heard, with anyone  
21 else, other than your counsel?

22 A. I have not discussed that with anybody.

23 MR. BALBER: Again, just to caveat it, I  
24 assume you are excluding other representatives of  
25 the U.S. Government, the other congressional

1 committees or Special Counsel's Office, et cetera.

2 MR. PRIVOR: Yeah, I think that is fair,  
3 Scott.

4 BY MR. PRIVOR:

5 Q. I am interested, just for clarification,  
6 Mr. Kaveladze, did you contemporaneously, sometime  
7 around the time of that call, did you discuss that  
8 call with anyone else?

9 A. No, I did not.

10 Q. And do you know whether Mr. Agalarov  
11 discussed that call with anyone else?

12 A. I have no knowledge of this.

13 Q. Do you know if there was anyone else,  
14 other than the request conveyed by Mr. Goldstone,  
15 do you know if anyone else had tried to arrange a  
16 meeting between Mr. Trump and any Russian  
17 Government officials in connection with the Miss  
18 Universe pageant?

19 A. I have no knowledge of this.

20 Q. You stated, in response to Mr. Davis'  
21 question, that you did not know whether a meeting  
22 occurred between Mr. Putin and Mr. Trump. Is that  
23 right?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. Did you attend the Miss Universe pageant?

1           A. Yes, I did.

2           Q. And while you were at the pageant, you  
3 never observed the two of them together? Is that  
4 right?

5           A. That is a correct statement.

6           Q. Do you know whether there was any meeting  
7 between Mr. Trump and another representative of  
8 the Russian Government in connection with the Miss  
9 Universe pageant?

10          A. I have no knowledge of meetings like  
11 that.

12          Q. Are you aware of any other instances in  
13 which Mr. Agalarov sought to arrange any meetings  
14 between Mr. Trump or his associates and Russian  
15 Government officials, apart from that telephone  
16 call?

17          A. No, sir.

18          Q. Are you aware of any other instances in  
19 which Mr. Peskov might have been involved in  
20 trying to arrange meetings between Mr. Trump or  
21 his associates and Russian Government officials?

22          A. No, sir.

23          Q. Have you ever had any conversation with  
24 Mr. Trump or his representatives about setting up  
25 a meeting with Russian officials?

1           A. No, sir.

2           Q. Are you aware of any other instances in  
3 which anyone from the Trump Organization sought to  
4 arrange a meeting between Mr. Trump and Russian  
5 Government officials, whether it was through Mr.  
6 Agalarov, Mr. Peskov, or anyone else?

7           A. No.

8           Q. Do you know of any other instances in  
9 which anyone from the Trump Organization has  
10 reached out to Mr. Peskov to communicate with him  
11 for any reason?

12          A. No.

13          Q. I believe you testified last time you  
14 were before the committee that you do not know  
15 Michael Cohen. Do I have that correct?

16          A. That is correct.

17          Q. Michael Cohen is or was a lawyer for the  
18 Trump Organization. Does that help you at all?  
19 Is that somebody you have ever communicated with?

20          A. No, sir. I have never communicated with  
21 Michael Cohen.

22          Q. Okay.

23          MS. SAWYER: Mr. Kaveladze, just a couple of  
24 quick follow-up questions.

25 BY MS. SAWYER:

1           Q. You had indicated that the request from  
2 Mr. Goldstone came in person, you thought around  
3 September 2013, and that Mr. Goldstone had, you  
4 said, expressed an interest in Mr. Goldstone even  
5 wanting to meet with Mr. Peskov to discuss the  
6 potential meeting.

7           Do you know if any such meeting ever took  
8 place between Mr. Goldstone and Mr. Peskov?

9           A. I have no knowledge of a meeting like  
10 that.

11          Q. Do you know if there was any meeting  
12 between Mr. Goldstone and any other representative  
13 of the Russian Government?

14          A. I have no knowledge of the meetings like  
15 that.

16          Q. And was this the -- it sounds like there  
17 were more than one meeting about the Miss Universe  
18 pageant. Did Mr. Goldstone attend more than once,  
19 more than this one time?

20          A. I did not attend all organizational  
21 meetings dedicated to Miss Universe pageant, but I  
22 believe I've attended two or three. But that was  
23 the only one where Mr. Goldstone was present. The  
24 --

25          Q. And at the other -- go ahead.

1           A. The other meetings were, you know, we  
2 were discussing some organizational aspects of the  
3 pageant between ourselves.

4           Q. Okay. And at the other two or three  
5 meetings that you attended, was there any  
6 representative of the Trump Organization present  
7 at those other meetings?

8           A. No, ma'am.

9           MR. PRIVOR: We are going to go off the  
10 record at 2 o'clock.

11           [Break.]

12           MR. PRIVOR: We are going to go back on the  
13 record. It is 2:01 p.m.

14           We are going to continue now with the second  
15 topic, your travel to Russia in June and July of  
16 2016. We have some additional follow-up questions  
17 on that topic as well.

18 BY MR. PRIVOR:

19           Q. So with regard to the trip, I understand  
20 from your prior testimony that you left New York  
21 City on June 10th and went to Frankfurt, arriving  
22 in Moscow the next day, on June 11. Was this  
23 particular trip preplanned, that you were going to  
24 be leaving the United States on June 10th?

25           A. Well, it was planned that I should be in

1 Moscow at that time.

2 Q. When were the arrangements made to make  
3 this trip? In other words, putting it in time  
4 with the June 9th meeting, had it been decided  
5 ahead of time that you were going to be traveling  
6 to Moscow or Russia after the June 9th meeting?  
7 Or was that decision made after the June 9th  
8 meeting?

9 A. I was supposed to be in Moscow at that  
10 time, and the reason for that being not really a  
11 business reason but more a personal reason. My  
12 family member had [REDACTED] an event [REDACTED], and he was in Moscow  
13 at that time, and I had to be at [REDACTED] family event [REDACTED].

14 Q. When you were before the committee a  
15 couple months ago and testified previously, we had  
16 asked you about a telephone conversation with Aras  
17 Agalarov, and we had shown you a telephone bill  
18 that showed the time of the call was 5:14 p.m. on  
19 June 9th after the meeting. In between that  
20 telephone call and your arrival in Moscow, did you  
21 have any other conversations that you can recall  
22 with Mr. Agalarov?

23 A. I have no recollection of that,  
24 conversations.

25 Q. How about once you arrived in Moscow?

1 You, obviously, from your testimony, it sounds  
2 like you met with Mr. Agalarov. Did you also  
3 speak with him on the telephone when you arrived  
4 in Moscow?

5 A. Did I speak with him on the telephone? I  
6 might have. I mean, I don't think so. I mean, I  
7 usually discuss, you know, issues with him face-  
8 to-face. We don't do many telephone  
9 conversations. I mean, he calls me, but I don't  
10 usually call him.

11 Q. When you were speaking with our  
12 colleague, Mr. Davis, a little bit ago, you said  
13 that there was one additional conversation with  
14 Aras Agalarov in which you had reiterated that you  
15 felt it would be better if the meeting between Ms.  
16 Veselnitskaya would be with lawyers rather than  
17 with the personnel who met her on June 9th.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Other than that conversation with Aras,  
20 do you recall any other conversations with Mr.  
21 Agalarov in which you discussed the June 9th  
22 meeting?

23 A. No.

24 Q. And I'm sorry, I should've put it in  
25 context.

1 MR. BALBER: In that period of time.

2 MR. PRIVOR: In that period of time, while  
3 you were in Russia.

4 MR. KAVELADZE: No, sir. We did not  
5 discuss.

6 BY MR. PRIVOR:

7 Q. So it was just the one conversation with  
8 Mr. Agalarov that you can recall?

9 A. Yes, that is correct.

10 Q. Was that particular conversation in  
11 person?

12 A. The -- yeah, in person. Yeah, it was  
13 part of a group of people. But, you know, we had  
14 a personal conversation, I guess. But, yeah.

15 Q. Do you recall when that meeting took  
16 place?

17 A. A few days after my arrival. I don't  
18 recall exact date.

19 Q. Was the meeting at Mr. Agalarov's office?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Was anyone else present for that meeting?

22 A. Not for that topic. I mean, I had met --  
23 we had like a private meeting, but you know how  
24 there is like -- there is like a big room, and  
25 there is like people getting in for different

1 issues, and I had like -- I had 2 minutes of his  
2 privacy and had this quick conversation.

3 Q. And with respect to that conversation, as  
4 it pertained to the June 9th meeting, was anyone  
5 else participating by telephone? Or was it just  
6 you and Mr. Agalarov?

7 A. Just me and Mr. Agalarov.

8 Q. Do you recall anything else from that  
9 conversation, other than having reiterated your  
10 belief that it would've been better to have Ms.  
11 Veselnitskaya meet with lawyers?

12 A. No, I do not.

13 Q. Setting aside your conversation with Aras  
14 Agalarov, did you speak with anyone else about the  
15 June 9th meeting while you were in Russia?

16 A. No, I don't believe so.

17 Q. So, for instance, did you have any  
18 conversations with Emin Agalarov about the June  
19 9th meeting?

20 A. No, definitely not.

21 Q. Do you recall whether Mr. Agalarov had  
22 any reaction to your comment about Ms.  
23 Veselnitskaya should've met with lawyers?

24 A. I think he agreed with my statement.

25 Q. Do you recall whether he had any other

1 verbal response to you? Did he have any input at  
2 all?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Other than that brief conversation, do  
5 you recall any other communication with Aras  
6 Agalarov? For instance, over email, in which you  
7 discussed the June 9th meeting?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. And do you recall communications with  
10 anyone else other than Mr. Agalarov about the June  
11 9th meeting while you were in Russia? For  
12 instance, an email with any other person?

13 A. I don't believe so, no.

14 Q. Did you ever discuss Donald Trump or the  
15 election with anyone while you were in Russia  
16 during that June-July time frame?

17 A. Did I -- could you please repeat your  
18 question?

19 Q. Sure. And let me split it into two.

20 Did you ever discuss with anybody Donald  
21 Trump while you were in Russia in June and July of  
22 2016?

23 A. I could've discussed -- it's an electoral  
24 campaign, so I could've had discussions, some  
25 general discussions, but no specific discussions,

1 no.

2 Q. Do you --

3 A. That topic was widely discussed in  
4 Moscow, put it this way.

5 Q. But do you recall any specific  
6 discussions about Donald Trump?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Same question except the election. Do  
9 you recall any specific discussions about the U.S.  
10 election while you were in Russia in June and July  
11 of 2016?

12 A. I mean, maybe Mr. Agalarov would ask me  
13 questions, but I don't recall the specifics, you  
14 know, "What are the candidates' chances? What are  
15 Donald's chances?" or something like that, "What's  
16 my opinion?" Stuff like that.

17 MR. BALBER: Do you have a memory -- do you  
18 have a memory of those conversations with him when  
19 you were in Moscow?

20 MR. KAVELADZE: No. I mean, no. No, I  
21 don't have a memory of specific conversations.  
22 No.

23 MR. O'DONNELL: Then don't speculate.

24 MR. KAVELADZE: Okay.

25 BY MR. PRIVOR:

1           Q. Last time we spoke, when you testified a  
2 couple months ago, we had asked you about -- we  
3 showed you your phone records, and we asked you  
4 about some phone numbers from your phone bill.

5           A. Yes, sir.

6           Q. And at the time, you didn't recall who  
7 those numbers belonged to. Now that you recall  
8 that you were in Russia during that time period,  
9 does that at all help refresh your recollection  
10 about who you would've spoken to on the telephone?

11          And I am happy to give you the telephone numbers  
12 again, if that is helpful.

13          A. Yeah, go ahead.

14          Q. The first one is [REDACTED]. It is  
15 designated as a Russian mobile number. Do you  
16 recognize the number at all?

17          A. I don't. [REDACTED] --

18          Q. [REDACTED].

19          A. I don't think I do.

20          MR. PRIVOR: And just for reference, for  
21 your counsel, in case he cares to look, this was  
22 Exhibit 16, and this shows up on page 166 of the  
23 transcript, if you need to reference it later.

24 BY MR. PRIVOR:

25          Q. So you don't remember that phone number?

1 Is that right?

2 A. I don't.

3 Q. Okay. The second phone number was [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]. Do you recognize that phone number?

5 A. [REDACTED] -- can you repeat the number, please?

6 Q. Of course. [REDACTED].

7 A. No, I don't remember that. No. I don't  
8 recognize that number.

9 Q. Okay. Back when you had -- when you  
10 testified in November, I had asked about those  
11 same phone numbers and asked whether you would be  
12 able to identify them in your phone book or  
13 electronic directory. You and your counsel had  
14 agreed that you would check on those numbers.

15 Is that something you would be able to  
16 check for us now or in the near future and get  
17 back to us, if you --

18 A. I -- I definitely can check my phone  
19 book. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Okay. We would renew that request, then,  
21 with your counsel, to see if you can identify  
22 those two phone numbers.

23 We also asked, when we spoke to you in  
24 November, we asked why there was a gap in your  
25 telephone bill from, roughly, June 10th to June

1 20th. And by gap, I mean there were no telephone  
2 calls on your record, except for a few roaming  
3 telephone calls on June 15th and June 16th. And  
4 you had testified that you didn't know why there  
5 was a gap, but the roaming, obviously, suggested  
6 you were in Russia.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now that we have confirmed that you were,  
9 in fact, in Russia during that time period, do you  
10 recall who you spoke to for those roaming  
11 telephone calls on June 15th and June 16th?

12 A. No, sir. What I, you know, might suggest  
13 is that it was my --

14 MR. BALBER: Either you know who you spoke  
15 to or you don't know who you spoke to.

16 MR. KAVELADZE: No, I do not.

17 BY MR. PRIVOR:

18 Q. Okay. There was one telephone number on  
19 there that it actually showed the telephone  
20 number, as opposed to just "unavailable." That  
21 phone number, I would like to see if you remember.

22 It was somebody in [REDACTED], New York. Does that  
23 ring a bell with you?

24 A. [REDACTED]?

25 Q. [REDACTED] New York.

1           A. No. What's --

2           Q. I'll give you the telephone number. Let  
3 us know if you recognize it. [REDACTED]. Do  
4 you recognize that phone number?

5           A. I do not.

6           Q. There were only, as I noted, during that  
7 time period between June 10th and June 20th, I  
8 believe it is five phone calls showing on June  
9 15th and June 16th. Do you recall whether you  
10 used your phone more often than that while you  
11 were traveling in Russia?

12          A. No, I don't recall that.

13          Q. Do you use any other telephone while you  
14 are traveling in Russia, other than that cell  
15 phone?

16          A. Sometimes I would use local phone, yes.

17          Q. Like a local -- a second cell phone or do  
18 you mean a landline in an office?

19          A. A landline in an office or sometimes  
20 local cell phone, yes. They provide me --  
21 sometimes they provide me with a local phone.

22          Q. And that "they provide," do you mean the  
23 Agalarovs or the Crocus Group provides you another  
24 mobile phone?

25          A. That is correct.

1           Q. Do you use that second mobile phone for  
2 any personal business?

3           A. Not really.

4           Q. Do you recall whether you had used that  
5 other mobile phone to discuss the June 9th meeting  
6 with anybody while you were in Russia?

7           A. No, I don't recall it.

8           Q. Do you recall whether you used that other  
9 Russian mobile phone to speak to anybody about  
10 Donald Trump or the presidential election?

11           A. No, sir. I don't recall that.

12           Q. Do you know whether either Aras or Emin  
13 Agalarov discussed the June 9th meeting with  
14 anyone else, other than you've discussed one  
15 conversation you had with Aras?

16           A. No. No, I -- I know that they discussed  
17 -- Aras discussed it also with Ms. Veselnitskaya  
18 after, but nothing more than that.

19           Q. Were you present for his conversation  
20 with Ms. Veselnitskaya?

21           A. As you might remember, you know, I was  
22 talking to him and she asked for a few minutes, to  
23 hand the phone to her for a few minutes. And she  
24 thanked him -- thanked Mr. Agalarov for the  
25 meeting, and they had a quick conversation.

1           Q. Is there anything else you can recall  
2 from that conversation?

3           A. No, sir.

4           Q. Any other conversations that you are  
5 aware of between either of the Agalarovs and Ms.  
6 Veselnitskaya while you were in Russia?

7           A. No, I don't recall those conversations.

8           Q. Mr. Davis had asked you already about Mr.  
9 Akhmetshin, and you said you didn't have any  
10 contact with him and you didn't have any contact  
11 with Ms. Veselnitskaya while you were in Russia.

12           A. Correct.

13           Q. Did you have any communications with any  
14 of the participants at the June 9th meeting while  
15 you were in Russia?

16           A. No, sir.

17           Q. How about Mr. Goldstone? Did you  
18 communicate with him at all?

19           A. I don't recall that time. No, I don't  
20 remember.

21           Q. Did you communicate at all with Mr. Roman  
22 Beniaminov while you were in Russia?

23           A. No. I --

24           Q. Did you communicate -- I'm sorry?

25           A. I told you about the conversation prior

1 to the meeting with Roman Beniaminov, but I didn't  
2 have any.

3 Q. Right, I'm asking, though, while you were  
4 in Russia.

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. While you were in Russia, did you  
7 communicate with anyone from the Trump  
8 Organization?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did you communicate with anyone from the  
11 Trump campaign while you were in Russia?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. Did you communicate with any Russian  
14 officials while you were in Russia?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. One sort of general question, you've  
17 described your trip as being from June 10th until  
18 approximately July 14th. I'm just curious why  
19 "approximately"? Do you not know the date that  
20 you left Russia?

21 A. I think not approximately. I think it is  
22 precise. I mean, yeah, I think it was July 14th.

23 MS. SAWYER: Mr. Kaveladze, just a couple  
24 quick follow-ups.

25 BY MS. SAWYER:

1           Q. My colleague had asked you about the  
2 arrangements to travel. Do you recall, now that  
3 you have gone back to look at your travel records,  
4 when your trip to New York was scheduled? Was it  
5 scheduled before your trip to Moscow or after? To  
6 New York to attend the June 9th meeting.

7           A. It was, I believe --

8           MR. BALBER: I'm sorry, can I ask it  
9 differently? I want to make sure I understand the  
10 question.

11           MS. SAWYER: Sure.

12           MR. BALBER: Is the question -- is the  
13 question, had he already planned his trip to  
14 Russia before he had planned his trip to New York  
15 or was it the opposite? Is that the question?

16           MR. KAVELADZE: I planned the trip,  
17 definitely, because of my [REDACTED], but I'm  
18 not sure about exactly when I purchased tickets  
19 and stuff like that. But I definitely planned to  
20 be in Moscow.

21           MS. SAWYER: And --

22           MR. BALBER: Is it --

23           MS. SAWYER: Go ahead, Scott.

24           MR. BALBER: I'm sorry. I was just going to  
25 ask, is it fair to say that you had intended to be

1 in Moscow in that period of time long before you  
2 knew you had to go to New York for the meeting at  
3 Trump Tower?

4 MR. KAVELADZE: Definitely.

5 MR. BALBER: Is that right?

6 MR. KAVELADZE: Definitely.

7 BY MS. SAWYER:

8 Q. And if I may ask, when is [redacted] family  
[redacted] event [redacted] ? What day?

10 A. [redacted] Family event [redacted] is June 13, but we had  
11 the party [redacted] on June 12th, because I believe  
12 June 13 was Monday, and we wanted to have a party  
13 like on that weekend. And so -- and so we decided  
14 to do a party on June 12th. The reason I am  
15 saying that is because I saw that Evite card.

16 Q. Okay. And you mentioned that you were,  
17 during the time that you were in Russia in June  
18 and July, you spent 8 days in Georgia, and you  
19 characterized it as a family trip. When in that  
20 month did those 8 days fall?

21 A. I don't remember. I'm sorry.

22 Q. Do you think it was at the beginning of  
23 the trip or more toward the end?

24 A. I don't know. Again, I can check my  
25 travel records and see and can get back to you.

1           Q. Yeah, and if you do you check your  
2 records, just if you could get back to us with the  
3 dates that the trip to New York was booked and the  
4 date that you booked your trip to Moscow, I would  
5 appreciate that.

6           A. Sure.

7           Q. And then just one quick question, you  
8 spoke with my colleague about the discussion that  
9 you had with Mr. Agalarov in person while you were  
10 in Moscow about the June 9 meeting. And what you  
11 recalled from it was that you reiterated kind of  
12 that you thought that Ms. Veselnitskaya should  
13 have met with lawyers rather than the folks from  
14 the campaign that she did meet with. Did anything  
15 come up, given that you knew before you went into  
16 that meeting that there was supposed to be dirt  
17 about Hillary Clinton? Did you have any mention  
18 with Mr. Agalarov about that aspect of what the  
19 meeting was supposed to be about?

20           A. Can you repeat that question, because I -  
21 -

22           Q. Sure. When you spoke with Mr. Agalarov -  
23 -

24           A. I discussed no dirt with Mr. Agalarov.

25           Q. Did anything come up about -- you had --

1 you referenced with my colleague that you had  
2 spoken with Mr. Beniaminov prior to the meeting,  
3 and my recollection of that from your last  
4 testimony -- I don't want to go back to that, but  
5 I just want to reference it -- was that he had  
6 alerted you to the fact that the Russian lawyer  
7 who was meeting would have information on Hillary  
8 Clinton.

9                   Given that that was what the expectation  
10 was, did you ever speak with Mr. Agalarov when you  
11 talked with him about the fact that that was  
12 supposed to be part of the meeting?

13                  A. Well, if you remember my testimony, the  
14 only person who related that information to me was  
15 Roman Beniaminov. Mr. Agalarov never suggested  
16 anything related to dirt on Ms. Clinton. He, from  
17 day one, he was suggesting it was about the  
18 Magnitsky Act, so -- and it was about the  
19 Magnitsky Act. So, no. I mean, why would I  
20 discuss it with him?

21                  Q. Did anything come up about the reaction  
22 of the Trump campaign to the meeting when you  
23 spoke with him while you were in Moscow right  
24 after the meeting?

25                  A. No. No. Yeah, I -- I basically had

1 those conversations right after the meeting, and  
2 so I relayed the reaction of the Trump campaign.  
3 So it's -- you know, the suggestion that we  
4 should've met with attorneys is partially like  
5 related to the reaction of the Trump campaign,  
6 that we should have met his attorneys and not with  
7 his people.

8 Q. Okay. Thank you.

9 A. Thank you.

10 MR. PRIVOR: Okay, just a few more  
11 questions. I want to ask you about a few other  
12 events that occurred while you were in Russia.

13 BY MR. PRIVOR:

14 Q. There was an international economic forum  
15 in St. Petersburg on or about June 17th. Did you  
16 attend that conference?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Did you discuss that conference with  
19 anyone?

20 A. No.

21 Q. I think Mr. Davis had asked you about the  
22 leaks or announcement of release of emails that  
23 occurred starting around June 14th. DCLeaks had  
24 made a release, and then Guccifer on June 15th  
25 started a blog saying it was responsible for the

1 DNC hack.

2 Is that something you recall while you  
3 were in Russia? Did you hear anything about it  
4 while you were in Russia?

5 A. I don't remember hearing about it in  
6 Russia.

7 Q. On June 17th, Mr. Trump had sent Emin a  
8 thank-you note for a birthday gift. Were you  
9 aware of that thank-you note?

10 A. I -- I think eventually somebody told me  
11 about that, but not at that time, no.

12 Q. You never discussed it with anyone while  
13 you were in Russia?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Are you familiar with the Russian  
16 Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

17 A. Am I familiar with the ministry? I know  
18 it exists, but nothing other than that.

19 Q. Have you ever met with anybody from the  
20 Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs while you were  
21 in Russia?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Did you ever discuss the Russian Ministry  
24 of Foreign Affairs while you were in Russia during  
25 that time period?

1           A. No, sir.

2           Q. Do you know Len Blavatnik?

3           A. From the media. He is an oligarch.

4           Q. Do you know him at all personally?

5           A. No.

6           Q. I'm sorry?

7           A. No. The answer is no.

8           Q. Have you ever communicated with him?

9           A. No, sir.

10          Q. How about Viktor Vekselberg? Have you

11 ever --

12          A. No, sir.

13          Q. You never communicated with him?

14          A. No.

15          Q. Oleg Deripaska, have you ever

16 communicated with him?

17          A. No.

18          Q. Do you know Konstantin Kilimnik?

19          A. No.

20          Q. You never communicated with him?

21          A. No, sir.

22          Q. Never discussed him with anyone?

23          A. No.

24          Q. Are you familiar with the New Economic

25 School in Moscow?

1           A. New Economic School in Moscow? No, I'm  
2 not familiar with that.

3           Q. I take it, then, you've not discussed the  
4 New Economic School with anyone while you were in  
5 Moscow, while you were in Russia?

6           A. No, sir.

7           Q. Do you know Carter Page?

8           A. No. From the media reports. No personal  
9 knowledge.

10          Q. Never had any communications about him?

11          A. No, sir.

12 BY MS. SAWYER:

13          Q. And Mr. Page was in Moscow during the  
14 time that you were there. Did you hear anything  
15 about Mr. Page while you were in Moscow?

16          A. No, ma'am. I have not.

17          MR. PRIVOR: Okay, we don't have any further  
18 questions.

19          Go ahead, Scott.

20          MR. KAVELADZE: You had something?

21          MR. BALBER: No, no. No, I'm sorry. I  
22 didn't mean to -- nothing to say. Apologies.

23          MR. DAVIS: Okay. I don't think we have  
24 anything further either, so I guess, with that in  
25 mind, we will go off the record at 2:29 p.m.

1           Thank you very much.

2           [Whereupon, the proceedings were adjourned  
3 at 2:29 p.m.]

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## ERRATA SHEET

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
INTERVIEW OF:  
DATE OF INTERVIEW:  
PAGE LINE

NOTE: The court reporter initially transcribed this word as "secretly" and re-confirmed it after reviewing the audio. Mr. Kaveladze and his counsel requested the word "secretly" be deleted, disputing he had said it. Committee staff did not believe the word should be deleted.

11 15 CHANGE: Delete "secretly"

REASON: transcription error

41 25 <sup>Change</sup> CHANGE: "Highland" to "Island

REASON: transcription error

58 24 CHANGE: change "her" to "him"

REASON: transcription error

63 20 CHANGE: Change "reiterate" to "repeat"

REASON: transcription error

67 3 CHANGE: "mechuy" to "media"

REASON: transcription error

67 3 CHANGE: Add "he is an" ~~be~~ after "media"

REASON: ~~elicit~~ clarify answer

#### CHANGE:

**REASON:**

## CHARGE

RESONANCE

Submitted by: (Signed)

Date: 5/3/2018

25 PRINT NAME:

THE KAVELADZE

Consel:

John O'Donnell

Alderson Court Reporting  
1-800-FOR-DEPO